

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
FEBRUARY 21, 2003

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, February 21, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members Present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Sara Fox, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mr. Jason Pugh, Mr. Danny Seal, Mr. Jim Southward, Mrs. Denise Walley, and Ms. Frankie White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College, Ms. Jerry McClendon - Mississippi State Department of Education, Dr. Bill Smith – Institutions of Higher Learning and Mr. Andy Kanengiser – The Clarion Ledger.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Dr. Dorothy Nelson gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of January 16-17, 2003, Regular Meetings

Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg pointed out that she was in attendance at the January 17, 2003 meeting in person and not via a conference call and asked that the minutes reflect the change. Upon a motion by Mr. Jimmy Murphy and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended minutes of the January 16-17, 2003, regular meetings.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2003, special called meeting.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Walker asked that an item be added after the Workforce Report to address the pay increase issue raised by members of the Mississippi Legislature. Upon a motion by Ms. Pat Randall and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher thanked Board members that attended the recent signing of the appropriations bill.

Dr. Stonecypher asked Mrs. Denise Walley to distribute a copy of the tentative schedule for the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (ETV) Learning Exchange program (Exhibit A). The program airs on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and tells the story of education in Mississippi. Dr. Evelyn Webb serves as the SBCJC liaison for the program.

Dr. Stonecypher distributed a spreadsheet prepared by SBCJC Associate Executive Director for Finance, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, indicating community and junior college local county tax support for FY 2001-2002 (Exhibit B). He discussed with the Board the fact that over the last 10 to 15 years the level of state support for the colleges has increased. If the trend continues for the next 10, 15, or 20 years the colleges will lose local autonomy and will be under a greater degree of state control. One of the strengths of Mississippi's community college system is local autonomy. The law currently mandates that a county give a minimum of two mills, one for support and one for maintenance. The cap is currently three mills for support and three mills for maintenance (Mississippi Gulf Coast has a special circumstance and can go to four mills).

Dr. Stonecypher suggested that a dialog begin with supervisors across the state to examine the possibility of moving the millage to three for support and three for maintenance over a ten-year period. Mrs. Deborah Gilbert reviewed the spreadsheet with the Board. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to begin a dialog to examine the possibility of working to increase county millage rates from one for support and one for maintenance to three mills for support and three for maintenance over a ten-year period.

EdNet Report

Mr. Jimmy Murphy reported that the EdNet Board held its regular meeting on Friday, January 10, 2003. He stated that Dr. Olon Ray is working with EdNet to draft a plan to raise money to complete the buildout of the EdNet system. Mr. Murphy stated that EdNet representatives met with Representative Billy McCoy and the Ways and Means Committee to make a request for financial support to complete the network buildout and to help offset operational costs until adequate funding can be obtained through service fees and other sources.

Mr. Martin Mangold, EdNet Executive Director, notified Mr. Murphy yesterday that a \$750,000 grant from the Mississippi Department of Education had been approved.

EdNet is working with Attorney Eileen Schaefer to protect its financial and capital equipment interest related to WorldCom's bankruptcy proceedings.

Mr. Murphy announced that the February EdNet Board meeting had been cancelled due to numerous conflicts in the calendars of the board members.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reminded Board members that they would be receiving a Statement of Economic Interest Form for completion.

He also reminded Board members to submit their comments and suggestions regarding the SBCJC Strategic Plan to Mrs. Denise Walley. Mr. Walker suggested that the Board be allowed to review the Strategic Plan until the next Board meeting and asked that it be placed on the March meeting agenda.

Dr. Stonecypher distributed a report of CCN Usage Analysis as of January 2003 (Exhibit C). The report indicated that the CCN system is currently under utilized. He asked that the Board review the report and offer input as the SBCJC plans for the future of the network.

*The meeting recessed at 9:40 a.m. and reconvened at 9:55 a.m. Mr. Jimmy Murphy left the meeting.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis reported on the following items discussed at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges' (MACJC) meeting on January 28, 2003:

Dr. Cathy Grace with Mississippi State University spoke to the MACJC regarding early childhood education and programs that would allow the community and junior colleges an opportunity to participate.

The Association approved participation in three dissertation proposal projects. Each of the proposals will provide research related to aspects of Mississippi's community colleges.

The MACJC voted to continue supporting the MEP project.

The Mississippi National Guard issued an invitation to the MACJC to visit Camp Shelby and hold their July MACJC meeting on site.

Dr. Davis reported that he and Mr. Jason Pugh were late to the meeting because they were taking part in an exit interview with representatives of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Committee assigned to complete the review of the Mississippi Virtual Community College's (MSVCC) substantive change application. He stated that he was happy to report that the exit interview was very favorable. Dr. Davis commended Mr. Jason Pugh for all his work in planning and coordinating the SACS visit. Dr. Davis also thanked Dr. Scott Elliott for allowing Mr. Hubert Yates of Meridian Community College to work with the committee. Meridian Community had already completed their distance learning substantive change process, and Mr. Yates was able to provide insight on their process. Dr. Davis also thanked Dr. Clyde Muse for hosting the visit at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center. The facilities there allowed the visit to be more centralized.

Dr. Davis reported that there were only ten recommendations that affect the entire system. The colleges will work together to prepare a response to those recommendations. Also, there were seven other individual recommendations spread among nine different colleges. Those nine colleges will have to respond to the

recommendations on their own. Dr. Davis briefly discussed the SACS committee's concerns with the Board. He stated that the committee was most complimentary with regard to the visit and stated that the Mississippi visit would be the model used to complete other states' visits.

Workforce Report

Mr. George Walker led a discussion related to the preparation of a position paper or an editorial article in response to proposed legislation and recent articles that appeared in newspapers that criticized the educational boards in the state for pay increases awarded to certain employees under their direction. Upon a motion by Major General Denver Brackeen and a second by Mrs. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to support Mr. Walker in representing the position of the Board if he is called before a legislative committee for comment.

Mr. Walker complimented SBCJC staff on the newest edition of the Newsletter. He also congratulated Mr. Lawrence Warren on receiving the CARE Award from the Mississippi Boys and Girls Club organization.

Mr. Walker announced that the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) would have a meeting to prepare a new strategic plan. SBCJC staff member, Mr. Duane Hamill will serve as facilitator for the session planned for March 12, 2003.

Mr. Walker reported on a meeting held January 28, 2003, of the Joint Taskforce of the Workforce Investment Act for Community and Junior Colleges. The Taskforce is made up of members from the Federal Workforce Investment Board and the SWDC.

MDC of North Carolina is developing a strategic plan for workforce development in Mississippi for the Federal Workforce Investment Board. The study will answer questions related to identifying the current workforce in Mississippi and where jobs are located. It will complete a gap analysis indicating growth areas and at risk areas across the state. The study will also examine where the job market will be in five years, highlighting globalization, education, and skill demands.

Legislative Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry updated the Board on legislative bills that could directly and indirectly effect the SBCJC and community colleges.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund and Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for February 2003, from funds 3295, 4080, and 4110, in the total amount of \$3,289,975.34 (Exhibit D).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of hardware and hardware support to upgrade the Community College Network (CCN) from Graybar Electric Company, in the total amount of \$37,040.12 (Exhibit E).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of computer equipment from the Department of Information and Technology Services' Express Products List utilizing Senate Bill 2945 bond funds, in the total amount of \$181,362 (Exhibit F).

Mrs. Fox presented the following items, requiring no action, for the Board's information:

FY 2004 Appropriations – S. B. 2678 – Support (Exhibit G)
FY 2004 Appropriations – S. B. 2678 – Administration (Exhibit H)
Financial Statements for Funds 2291 and 3291 as of January 31, 2003
(Exhibit I).

CPSCR Report

Mr. Danny Seal gave the Board an update on the actions taken at the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration (CPSCR) meeting on February 20, 2003.

Currently there are 35 schools and 70 annex locations under the CPSCR jurisdiction.

A special meeting was held prior to the regular meeting to review the Rules and Regulations of the Commission and the Law. Several suggestions are under review for possible revision and they may be brought to the SBCJC for review if revision is recommended.

The Commission approved 44 new instructor and 4 agent applications.

The Commission collected \$3,677.60 in fees.

School Certificates of Registration were renewed for: Commercial Drivers Institute – Saucier, Ace Training Center – Jackson, and Healthcare Institute of Jackson.

A Temporary Certificate of Registration for Nashville Auto Diesel College was approved. Lincoln Tech recently purchased the college.

The Commission conditionally denied an application from The Mississippi Training Center due to lack of a facility.

The Commission received 4 requests for new school applications.

The next CPSCR meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2003.

Mr. Seal also gave a brief report on Adult Education training. A training workshop for 50 teachers on learning disabilities is being held today at the Edison Walthall Hotel in Jackson. Each Adult Education program in Mississippi now has one individual that has been trained in the area of learning disabilities.

Technology Report

Mr. Ray Smith gave the Board an update on the SBCJC Technology Division. He reported on the recent infrastructure upgrades that allowed for the consolidation of the video and data networks to double the capacity with no additional costs. He stated that in light of recent terrorist activity technology staff members are working with the FBI and the Attorney Generals' Office on issues of homeland security. Attacks have been placed on the routing infrastructure of networks. Mr. Smith reported that the technology staff continues to research ways to provide more and better security for the SBCJC local and wide area networks.

MS Post-Secondary Education Financial Assistance Board Appointment

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher recommended that Mr. Wirt Hayes of Holmes Community College, be reappointed to serve another term on the MS Post-Secondary Education Financial Assistance Board. Upon a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg and a second by Mrs. Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Wirt Hayes to a second term on the MS Post-Secondary Education Financial Assistance Board.

Nissan Scholarship Committee

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, and a second by Mrs. Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Dr. John Woods from Hinds Community College, and Dr. Glenn Boyce from Holmes Community College to a second term on the Nissan Scholarship Committee.

Department of Labor Grant

Dr. Stonecypher gave the Board an update on a \$5,000,000 US Department of Labor grant earmarked to provide training to suppliers for the Nissan Plant. Documents are being signed that will finalize the grant.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Dr. Dorothy Nelson and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

Mr. Jimmy Murphy for attending an EdNet Board meeting on January 10, 2003.

Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, Mrs. Patricia Randall, and Dr. Dorothy Nelson for attending the Governor's signing of House Bill 2678 on February 5, 2003, in Jackson, Mississippi.

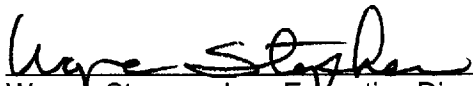
Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg for attending the MACJC Legislative Appreciation Luncheon on February 12, 2003, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. George Walker for attending a SWDC meeting in Jackson on March 12, and the Phi Theta Kappa Luncheon on March 18, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director